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**By Kim Slote, policy analyst**

## REFERENCE GUIDES

The updated reference guides listed were published by the USDE in the month of July. The guides listed are linked with the corresponding electronic announcement with the date of publication.

- Availability of the MyStudentData Download Guide for the 2021-2022 FAFSA Form – July 1, 2020
- 2021-2022 ISIR Guide – July 14, 2020
- Volume 1 – Student Eligibility [2020-2021 Federal Student Aid Handbook] – July 20, 2020
- 2021-2022 SAR Comment Codes and Text Guide – July 20, 2020
- Volume 5 – Withdrawals and the Return of Title IV Funds [2020-2021 Federal Student Aid Handbook] – July 27, 2020

## DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM

An Electronic Announcement was published by the USDE July 1, 2020: Additional 2018-2019 Direct Loan Program Year Closeout Information. The announcement provides important reminders and outlines school responsibilities related to Direct Loan closeout for the 2018-2019 program year. The deadline for the Direct Loan closeout for the 2018-2019 program year was Friday,

July 31, 2020. For more information regarding the Direct Loan closeout process, review the questions and answers provided in the announcement.

## CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAMS

On June 7, 2020, the USDE published an Electronic Announcement: Important Information about the Reallocation Process, the 2019-2020 Campus-Based Reallocation form and the Process to Request Supplemental Federal Work-Study Funds for 2020-2021. The 2019-2020 Reallocation Form and Instructions are attached to the announcement. Details are provided on the reallocation process for schools to release unexpended portions of their 2019-2020 allocations in the Federal Work-Study and/or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs, as well as how to request supplemental 2020-2021 FWS funds to employ students in community service jobs. The deadline to electronically submit the 2020-2021 Campus-Based Reallocation Form is Monday, Aug. 17, 2020.

## TRAINING

The USDE published an Electronic Announcement July 10, 2020: The Federal Student Aid Training Conference for Financial Aid Professionals in 2020 is Going Virtual! Dec. 1-4, 2020. Because of the

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uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the 2020 FSA Training Conference will be held virtually December 1 through December 4. Information on how to participate will be posted later this summer at https://fsaconferences.ed.gov/.

**FSA DEADLINES**

A Federal Register Notice was issued by the USDE July 14, 2020: 2020-2021 Award Year Deadline Dates. Deadline dates for the 2020-2021 Award Year are provided for reports and other records associated with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, Federal Work-Study Programs, Federal Pell Grant Program, Direct Loan Program, Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Program. Tables A and B attached to this Federal Register Notice outline required submittals with dates due.

**HEAL PROGRAM**

An Electronic Announcement was published by the USDE July 16, 2020: HEAL Program Information - Maximum HEAL Program Interest Rates for Quarter Ending Sep. 30, 2020. The "Current Maximum Interest Rates" section of the HEAL Interest Rates page of the HEAL Program Area on the

IFAP website has been updated with the maximum HEAL Program interest rates for the quarter ending Sep. 30, 2019.

**eZ-AUDIT**

On July 17, 2020, the USDE published an Electronic Announcement: Electronic Submission of Financial Statements and Compliance Audits for All Schools and Other Entities. An enhancement to the web-based eZ-Audit was implemented Aug. 2, 2020. All schools and other entities are now required to submit financial statements and compliance audits to Federal Student Aid electronically using eZ-Audit. Foreign schools, third-party servicers, Federal Family Education Loan Program lenders, FFEL lender servicers, guaranty agencies and GA servicers are included as other entities. Registration instructions are attached to the announcement, if needed.

**FORMS**

The USDE published an Electronic Announcement July 17, 2020: OMB Approval of the Loan Rehabilitation Income and Expense Information Form. The new Loan Rehabilitation Income and Expense Information form is approved and can be distributed immediately. The new form is attached to the announcement.

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## COVID-19 RELIEF MEASURES

An Electronic Announcement was published by the USDE July 24, 2020: Email Reminder About COVID-19 Relief Measures to In-School Borrowers July 27-31, 2020. Customized emails were sent, during the period of July 27-31, 2020, to in-school borrowers of federal student loans and TEACH Grant recipients. The messages reminded students and grant recipients that COVID-19 relief measures will expire and they should start planning. Six additional notifications will be sent in the next few months. A sample of the email sent is attached to the announcement.

## TECHNICAL

There were three technical electronic announcements published by the USDE in the month of July. The links are listed below with the date of publication.

- 2019-2020 Verification Reporting and Verification Status Code "W" Warning Message – July 28, 2020
- 2021-2022 EDE Technical Reference (July 2020 Update) – July 29, 2020
- Additional COD System Implementation Information for COD System Changes to Support the CARES Act – July 30, 2020

- Expanded SAIG Enrollment Functionality Available for Primary Destination Point Administrators at Foreign Schools – July 31, 2020

## FEDERAL SCHOOL CODE LIST

On July 30, 2020, the USDE published an Electronic Announcement: 2020-2021 Federal School Code List of Participating Schools (Aug. 2020). The updated Federal School Code List includes schools participating in the Title IV federal student aid programs and the unique codes assigned to them by the U. S. Department of Education. Students use school codes to indicate which postsecondary schools will receive the processed application results from their Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Instructions are in the announcement for updating your school's FSC information.